

FIRST CLASS MAIL



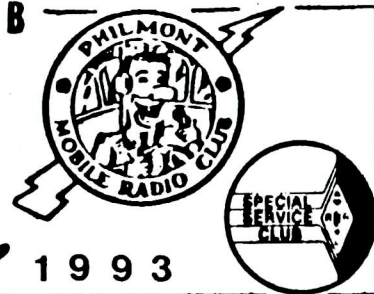
A Publication of
THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
2113 EDGEHILL DRIVE, FURLONG, PA 18925

THE BLURB

PHILMONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB
W3RQZ • W3TKQ • W3QV



September 1993



Like the PHOENIX

ANOTHER NEW RADIO HAM
AROSE AT THE 100TH VE SESSION



Sam Kuncovich, our loyal artist, anxiously awaits his new call!

VOLUME 43

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. **BLURB** subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10.00 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the first non-holiday WEDNESDAY of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street, or parking garage.

ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Amateur Radio License Examinations - the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

CLUB INFORMATION

24-Hour Information Number at W3TKQ -(215) 448-1139
Repeater frequencies: 147.03 Hz (Roxboro input requires no PL)
PL required for off-site receiver (OSR) access:

Bucks County 131.8 Hz

Center City 103.5 Hz

Lansdale 114.8 Hz

444.80 mHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex frequency: 147.51 mHz

Packet BBS frequency at W3TKQ: 144.99 mHz

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 mHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

W3RQZ - 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA - Trustee W3VVS

W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3PWG

LICENSED AMATEURS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO OPERATE W3TKQ.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215) 572-5238

VICE PRESIDENT: N3GMH, Paul Policarpo, 2425 S. 21st Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145 (215) 465-2247

SECRETARY: WU3I, Steve Hoch, 4638 Oakland Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 535-8061

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DIRECTORS

W3BBB (94); K3FVI (94); AK2I (93); N2RM (93); W3IIM (A); K3KUD (A); W3RM (A)

COMMITTEES

Archives:	W3IIN	Emerg. Coord.:	W3BBB	Repeater:	W3BBB
BLURB:	W3IIM	Membership:	AA3BB	Special Events:	AA3EP
BLURB Folding:	WB3KOJ	Net Control:	KB3IV	VE Program:	ND3Q
Budget /Audit:	K3KUD	Program:	N3GMH	TVI:	W3VVS
Directory:	WB3KOJ	Publicity:	N3IEI	W3TKQ:	W3PWG
Education:	N3FTZ	Refreshments:	N3FVI	Welcome:	N3KGG

Special Liaison to The Franklin Institute Science Museum: AK2I

BLURB STAFF

Editor: W3IIM, Jack Haring, 2113 Edgehill Drive, Furlong, PA 18925 (215) 794-7623

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Labels & Folding: WB3KOH & WB3KOJ

Publisher/Typist: W3IIN

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the Board of Directors' Meeting!

NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	mHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	mHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	mHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	mHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	mHz FM	W3TKQ OPERATORS' NET



APPLE BYTES

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Greg Malone - N3FSC
03 Marian Fox - WA3YJR
05 George Wamsley - WO3D*
06 Len Kovnat - WB3JUA
08 Al Bubeck - K3GNM
Bill Hagerty - AA3BB
13 Marge Concordia - (XYL WB3KAC)
15 Bob Freer - W3YLT
17 Vikye Swanson (XYL N3GLH)
19 Miriam Kravitz - KB2EUA (XYL KD2CR*)
20 Jack Spratt - N3ALW
21 Hal Fox - W3AA
23 Shelly Klein - K3QNX (XYL W3WXC)
Patricia Mannino (XYL WA3NSP*)
Russ Stafford - AA3CH*
25 Pat Lewis (XYL N3MUG*)
26 Paul Ives - W3SMA
28 Millie Rulli (XYL WB2WOM)
30 Kim Sellers (XYL KB3AHQ*)

*Indicates New Member 92-93

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership?
Remember: the ARRL is more than just a magazine subscription!
Help PHIL-MONT by joining or renewing through the club.
Contact Jinny, W3IIN, for the details.

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. has:
163 FULL PAID MEMBERS
15 FAMILY MEMBERS
3 HONORARY MEMBERS
2 PENDING MEMBERS

September's General Meeting Program Preview

Robert Damrau, WAILOT

The Link Plus Model 2200A module is an enhanced digital signal processor (DSP) version of Lincompex technology. Lincompex is an audio processing system which dramatically improves the quality of voice communications using a controlled compression/expansion processing technique. Lincompex has historically been found in military and commercial HF communication systems, but was an unaffordable commodity for the amateur community until the development the Model 2200A.

As you will see the Model 2200A's size and power requirements allow the unit to be installed as an equipment field modification. We have also packaged the module into

several ready to install units. The unit which is most applicable to amateur radio operators is our MULE (Multi Use Link Enhancer).

The MULE provides a complete stand alone Link Plus interface suitable for amateur fixed, mobile or portable equipment. The MULE has a built-in international AC/DC power supply, a high quality speaker, finger tip mode controls and is supplied with its own microphone and radio interface cable.

As our products and technology are new to the amateur community, we believe our presentation program will be a valuable source of technical information. ☺



The Vacationing PREZ SEZ

Ed Masarsky, KB3IV



I get back.

Today is Monday Aug. 9, 1:30 p.m. I just got off the RV Net on 20 meters; asked if anyone heard from Jake in the last few weeks, but no one had. They suggested I try at 5:00 p.m. when the west coast group is on frequency.

I spoke to Rollie and Steve at W3TKQ this morning on 40 Meters, and they reported that things were going well there. We both had trouble copying each other because of construction noises from behind the console. I thought "BBB" was retired. It was great to be able to get into the Phil-Mont's 75 meter net yesterday, and also last Sunday. I couldn't hear a thing on 10 meters.

I also have been checking in with the Florida contingent in the morning on 20 meters. I spoke to W3AA and also N8DM out in Detroit, but the really big signal is now coming from Gil, W3SRU. Good luck with your new amplifier, Gil, it makes a big noise on the band.

Well, I guess by now you figured out that the one thing I haven't left behind is Ham Radio. I have my TS430, TM731, IC24AT, IC2AT, MFJ tuner, 75-40 trap dipole, 4BTV trap vertical, slingshot, fishing line, etc, etc. Oh, and a very tolerant wife. Many thanks to N3DHI and N3IEI for the loan of various items to put up my antenna farm.

Right now I'm, sitting in my sand chair at Sunken Meadow Beach on Cape Cod Bay. Nova Scotia is to the north, Boston to the west and England to the east. What's to the South? I don't care, it will be there when

Even though I'm on the beach I haven't left radio behind. My dual-band HT is clamped to my chair, and I can transmit to the KB3IV repeater back at the cottage, which links me to the 147.045 repeater in Dennis. The group on the repeater keeps telling me it is impossible to get into their site with an HT from my location. I let them go on for awhile and then explain that I'm transmitting on UHF. This really confuses them! The only UHF I've been able to pick up is the Plymouth repeater on 446.625. Not much action on this band up here. As the commercial goes, "Don't leave home without it". If you can find a way to take your hobby with you on vacation, do it. It's great making new friends.

I was pleased to hear about the presentation made on Thursday to ND3Q-Dusty and his VE Team, by Kay and Carter Craigie on behalf of the ARRL, in recognition of the 100th VE testing session. All Phil-Monters, and the entire Amateur community of the Delaware Valley, appreciate your dedication to the hobby.

I just looked up and noticed the tide is coming in, which means I'm headed for the water to cool off. If you think I want to sit here and keep writing this drivel for you to read, then you must have me confused with someone who really gives a!

By the time everyone reads this, I will have returned to "03", and you all will be sick of hearing about my exploits, but then it's good to be the king, oops, I mean President.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the September general meeting. ☺

LOOKAHEAD

- Sep 1 **General Meeting Program:**
"Digital Signal Processing"
Robert Damrau, WA1LOT
- Sep 2 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute
- Sep 8 Director's meeting
Sep 18-19 *MS150 Bike Tour*
- Oct 6 **General Meeting**
- Oct 7 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute
- Oct 20 Directors' meeting at
W3PXY's
- Nov 3 **General Meeting Program:**
Ole Timer's Night
Bob Thomas, W3QZO
- Nov 4 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute
- Nov 10 Directors' meeting at
AK2I's

HAMFESTS

- Sep 11 FLEMINGTON, NJ
Cherryville Repeater Association
- Sep 12 GAITHERSBURG, MD
Foundation for Amateur Radio
- Sep 19 PENNSAUKEN, NJ
South Jersey Radio Association
- Sep 25-26 YORK, PA
Multiple Sponsors
- Oct 24 SELLERSVILLE, PA
RF Hill ARC
- May 15 *1994*
WRIGHTSTOWN, PA
Warminster ARC
- July 31 TIMONIUM, MD
BRATS

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring a their original license and one photocopy of it. All applicants, including children, must present positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1993 test fee is \$5.60; there is no charge for a Novice test.

Monthly, 1st Thursday
The FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
(215) 482-0386
(215) 879-0505

Monthly, 3rd Thursday
BELLMAWR, NJ
Bill Helmatag
(609) 546-7710

Irregularly
BRYN MAWR
Bob Lees
(215) 265-6032

Monthly, 1st Thursday
LEVITTOWN
Dave Heller, K3TX
(215) 946-1040
(215) 736-3333

Irregularly
LINWOOD, PA
The 96 Over The Hill Gang
(215) 497-5795

Monthly, 3rd Wednesday
MORRISVILLE
Dave Munson, NM3K
(215) 788-7515

Monthly, 1st Monday
POTTSTOWN
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

Monthly, 3rd Monday
TELFORD
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

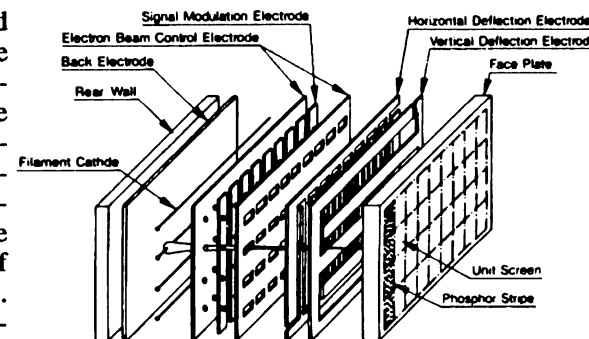
Monthly, Last Saturday
UNIVERSITY OF PA
Garrett Klein, WZ3G
(215) 898-8538 *shack*
(215) 222-8752 *home*

Odd Months, Last Wednesday
WARMINSTER
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494

Matsushita To Ship Flat Panel Color TV

14" hang-on-wall set due in October

Matsushita plans to introduce the world's first large-screen, hang-on-the-wall flat panel color TV in Japan this October, using its own "beam matrix" technology, rather than the liquid crystal display approach taken by other flat panel TV manufacturers. The first TVs will have 14" screens just 4" thick, and carry a hefty \$2,700 price tag, though Matsushita indicated that should come down substantially once the display is in full-scale mass production. The initial output will be at the rate of 1,000 a month. No U.S. introduction plan was announced, but the TVs, which



Principle of Flat Color Display (Beam-Matrix)

Matsushita calls Flat Vision, could show up here under the company's Panasonic and Quasar brands next spring, and are likely to be in view during the upcoming Winter Consumer Electronics Show.

The beam matrix display—first shown in 1985 at Japan's high-tech Tsukuba Expo, and trotted out again in 1989 for a Matsushita corporate technology exposition—has been in the works for some 20 years.

Its flat glass faceplate has some 10,000 individual cells each containing red, green and blue phosphor stripes, in effect making each cell a picture tube. The phosphors are activated by electron beams from horizontal rows of cathodes that fire through a series of plates that provide modulation and deflec-

tion control. The face plate, cathode and control plates are in a sandwich-like configuration that fits in a frame that holds the electronics.

In a technical paper describing the system, Matsushita said "the deflection electrodes of matrix construction and the phosphor screen" are the same in principle as

those found in conventional picture tubes, but the scanning system is the same as that used for liquid crystal displays.

The advantages of the beam matrix system over LCDs, it said, include brightness and color quality equal to

that of a picture tube, a wide viewing angle and high resolution. The system does, however, use significantly more power than an LCD.

Matsushita said that while conventional picture tubes will continue to be the standard for larger TVs, the beam matrix display will find a market role in sizes up to 20", and will find application as a display for laptop and desktop PCs, workstations, multimedia devices and even high-definition TVs.

It estimates that flat thin screens based on its technology will account for 10% of the world video/data display market by the year 2,000. The current annual market for such displays is 140 million.

This Week in Consumer Electronics

Charlie's Special Events Department

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP



It is with great pleasure that we extend to you an open invitation to join us on the largest two day Bike Tour on the east coast, the MS-150 Bike Tour. The tour encompasses lots of food and snacks along the way, as well as a spaghetti dinner on the Music Pier in Ocean City, NJ, followed immediately by an awards ceremony hosted by KYW-TV3's Larry Kane.

Then on to the beach party at the Civic Center. Of course, all of the above is free for the amateur operators that help out.

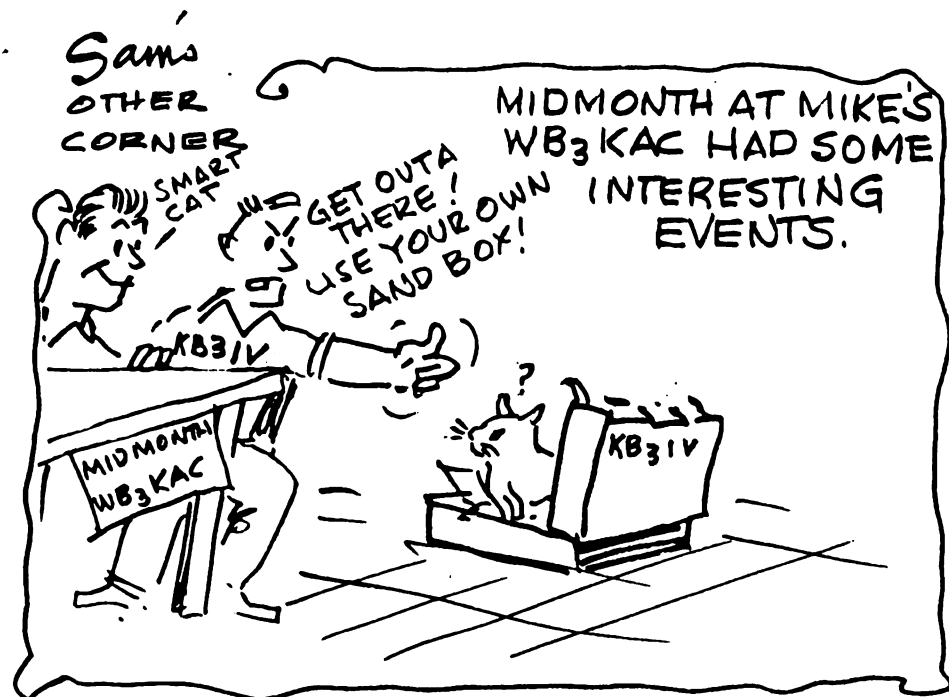
On day two there will be breakfast at the

Music Pier, a lunch stop, and the big welcome-back celebration in Cherry Hill.

We need your help for rest stops, check points, shuttle buses and ambulances. The amateur radio operator is invaluable in the safety, health and welfare of the riders, which number 4,000 plus.

For the American Cancer Society Bikeathon, we had 140 volunteers; this time we need over 150.

Please send-in your completed form from last month's *Blurb*, or call me ASAP. ☺



MINUTES

AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

Steve Hoch, WU3I, Secretary



N3GMH opened the 524th general meeting at 7:35 P.M.

AA3BB reported on two new members, they are: Steven Mezey-N3OWS and Ronald Johnson-N3ZO. WELCOME!

WU3I reported (on everything and then some) the following for the absent committee chairs:

NET CONTROL: another member is needed to fill the void of N3NRU who moved to Florida. (2m, approximately every 2 months.)

W3TKQ: the TS-950 is finished and will be picked up 8/10. The Packet BBS is still

running behind the console as no visit from KD3DE to install the program in the Tandy. HF packet with the Kam is awaiting a switch (BBB has it as of 8/7) to engage the relay.

REPEATER: to quote its father "it's working".

VE: The 100th session is 8/5 marking the longest running VE program (that we know of anyhow). It has been reported WT3P will be on hand for the session.

N3LUD reported on attendance. There were 26 members and 8 guests. The guests were: KE3GS-Bob Palko, N3PSO-Paul Bergman, Jim McCloskey-N3MPA, Anthony Vece.

Continued on page 19



100TH MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS AUGUST

19 candidates pass 23 elements
6 new amateurs plus 3 upgrades



VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman

Bob Wilcox, KE3CZ; George Starks, AA2FU; Chris Brady; N3IEI (photographer);
Frenchy Andrews, W3IRS (not shown); Steve Hoch, WU3I; Al Tribble, W3STW;
Joel Kleinguenther, KA3SWU; Pat Rush, WT3X

**AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
SCIENCE MUSEUM**

For Information Call ND3Q at
(215) 482-0386 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



1-800-32-NEW-HAM

PMRC—Behind the Scenes

Bob Wilcox KE3CZ

Recently I had the fortunate experience to sit in on one of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club's Board of Directors' Meetings. It was an experience that was quite rewarding, as sometimes the General Membership is unaware of the amount of time and dedication that the Officers of this organization spend trying to make things even better for us.

Business is conducted at a very official level, yet in a cordial manner that exemplifies the spirit of Amateur Radio. All said and done, there are many things beyond the scope of the Club that these folks attend to.

Sure, they discuss and vote on things that are very easy for anyone to find out about. Things like the *Blurb*, Repeater, W3TKQ and other elements of the Club that are readily accessible components. But this group also thinks about you, the individual Member.

As the Club grows, and it has by leaps and bounds, so does their job. It is important for all to realize, at least in my eyes, that they want everyone to feel they are another link in the strong chain. Many of the things noted in the Minutes by Steve, WU3I, the Club's Secretary, are accurate depictions of how things go, but they are not able to inform you of all that led to their writing because of limited space for them.

Rest assured that when the Phil-Mont Directors make their decisions, it follows careful consideration of all the Members and how well it will serve them.

I think that the Board of Directors, past and present, should be applauded for their devotion. Without them, things would be much more complicated. With them, and a lot of great members like yourselves, Phil-Mont should go into the future just as prestigiously as its past has been.

FOR SALE

Kenwood TR-7950 2 meter FM
transceiver, 50 watts w/PL-
transmit, mike, power cable \$150
Kenwood TR-2600 2 meter FM
handheld, leather case, speaker
mike, ST-2 desk charger, wall
charger, extra battery 185
RCA WA44C audio generator 15
Kenwood TS-520 low band
transceiver, SP520, MC50 mike,
manual OZR-2 ... 340
Astatic D-104 with grip-to-talk stand ... 40
Rohn #6 tower, 20 ft w/taper top,
hinged base plate LEM-14 .. 40
Mini-Quad beam, 10-15-20 LEM-15 .. 40
10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
PMRC club project LEM-20 .. 10
Standard SRC-130 2 meter
handheld, 6 chan xtal,
w/charger and manual 40
Regency HR-6 6 meter
FM transceiver 50
Marantz 2015 AM/FM stereo
receiver w/manual 50
Regency MR-10 tunable FM
receiver 152-174 MHz .. LEM-3 10
Tempo RBF-1 SWR bridge,
dual meters, 2 kw OZR-10 ... 10
Contact Jim Spencer W3BBB, 215-362-5172
or W3QV, 147.03 repeater.

Continued from page 5

Bradley Lowrey, Scott Olin, Sharon Yee and Tom Maresca.

50-50: KA4PWG sold the tickets, Anna Popovic drew the winner and N3LJC won.

N3GMH then introduced **AA3EP** and **AA3CH** who presented a short talk and video on public service in general, and the upcoming Cancer Society Bikathon.

The meeting was closed at 8:30 P.M.

A Cherryville Repeater Association II Hamfest

FLEMINGTON FALLFEST 93

* Saturday September 11, 1993 8:00-2:00 *

WARREN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Due to the overwhelming positive response to our
Flemington Hamfest West on May 22 at the new location,
WE ARE DOING IT AGAIN!

- * RAIN OR SHINE (covered areas used in case of rain)
- * ADMISSION STILL JUST \$5.00
- * INDOOR TABLES W/ IMPROVED LIGHTING
- * UNLIMITED TAILGATING AREA
- * FREE PARKING!
- * REFRESHMENTS & HOT & COLD FOOD ON SITE
- * AMATEUR RADIO GEAR
- * COMPUTER HARDWARE & SOFTWARE
- * ELECTRONIC TEST EQUIPMENT
- * QSL CARD CHECKING & RADIO TEST FACILITY ON SITE

VE TEST SESSION

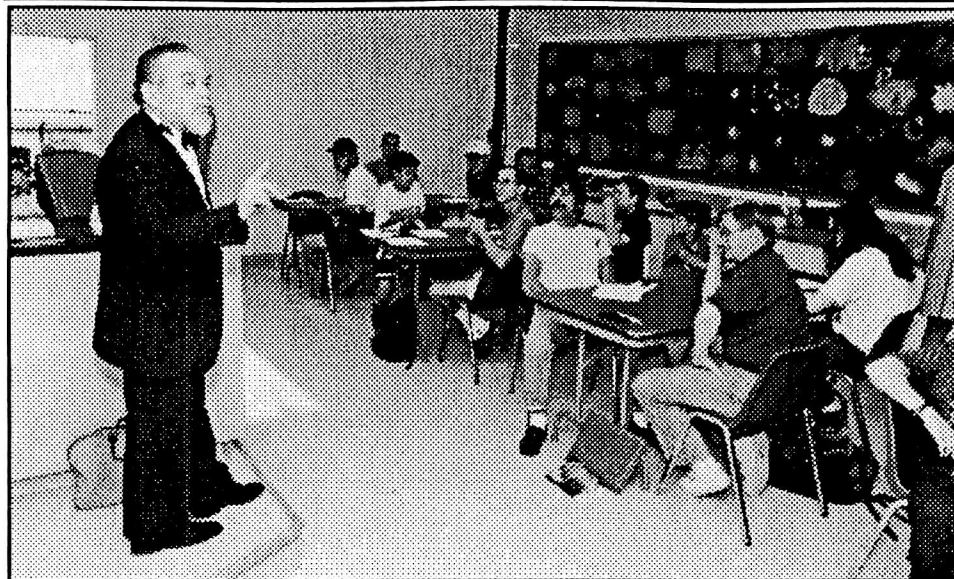
- * Registration & Testing 9:00 am
 - * Required items:
 - Original & copy of current license
 - Two forms of identification
 - FCC Form 610
 - \$5.60 Check payable to ARRL/VEC
- For further test information contact
VEC Chairman: Dick Wells, KE2HQ
(908) 479-6395 before 10 pm

HAMFEST INFORMATION

- * Admission: \$5.00,
under 12 & non-Ham XYLs free
 - * Vendor Rates:
 - Indoor Tables \$15.00
(Electricity \$5.00 /table)
 - Tailgate Spaces \$10.00
 - * Vendor Set up 6:00 AM
- For Further Information Contact:
Keith Burt, KF5FK (908) 788-4080

TALK IN: 147.375+ And 146.820-

"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"—for the courtesy chime!



Arrright youse guys, this is the way we do things around here!



Dusty, ND3Q accepts plaque from Kay Craigie, WT3P, ARRL Vice Director.

Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that the

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club VE Team

has been honored by the American Radio Relay League - VEC
for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio community
through their limitless generosity and dedication in the
administration of 100 FCC-license examination sessions
(and counting) in the true spirit of volunteerism.

Presented: August 5, 1993

Signed:

Bart J. Jabrke
Bart J. Jabrke, KB9NM
ARRL/VEC Manager

SAMA
KATTY
KORNER

COME HELL
AND

HIGH WATER
FRENCHIE

WILL FIND
AWAY OR

MAKE ONE

TO

GET TO A

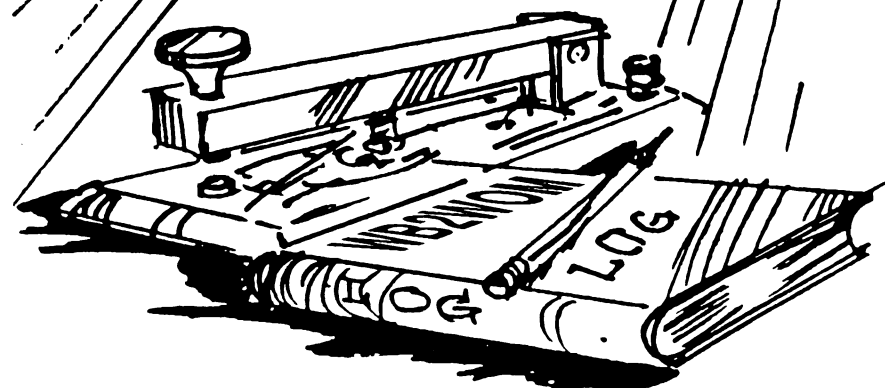
PHIL-MONT

MEETING



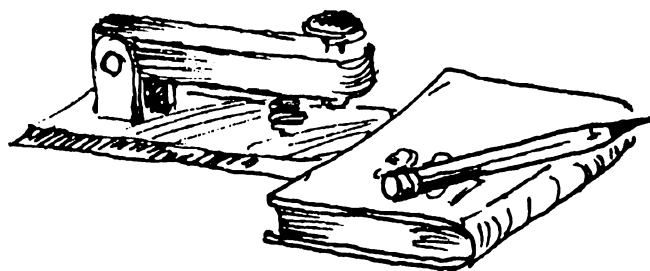
PHIL-MONT

Silent Key



Lou Rulli

PHIL-MONT Silent Key



BILL BUBECK
W3YHV

On The Road Again...

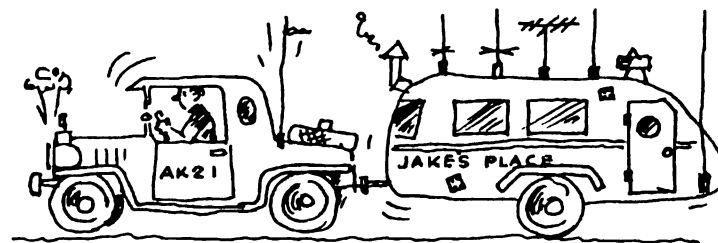
Jake Kovalchek, AK2I

Bismarck... that's what the Mayor of Bismarck, ND called the hail storm damage to our trailers.

Not one of the 2,434 trailers at the rally site was spared—not one. Even those that were brought in by their owners to be displayed in the Vintage Caravan of trailers, that were built in 1935 and up to 1968, were damaged, but the degree of damage did differ from the Vintage vs the Modern. The Vintage suffered far less because of the structural quality.

mobile homes, some as old as only three days—brand spanking new after receiving it from the factory, just the way you ordered it, with all the trimmings.

Two days prior to the storm, I had the contractor, at the rally, install Solar Panels on my trailer in order to provide constant current without any further worries on my part. These are fantastic pieces of equipment producing, on a good sunny day, about 13.8 volts of regulated current to the batteries and the inverter system, to provide not only 12



We were not even in the trailers when it all happened. The time was 7:00 p.m. on the evening of July 3, 1993. As we were awaiting the start of the evening's entertainment we heard the roar of what sounded like cannon on the roof. When we sorted out the various explanations we found that it was hail, and was it ever big! One woman wandered outside, grabbed a piece of hail and measured it at 1 7/8 inches. That was one of the smaller ones we were to find. A look outside confirmed the fact that the entire street was covered with white hail stones the size of golf balls!

Then the seriousness of the situation dawned like a bolt of lightning—this meant damage to our trailers. None of us could wait until the program was over to inspect our

volts when needed, but a limited supply of 110 volt current as well. As far as could be determined, not one solar panel was broken due to the hail storm... what a relief.

The next day the insurance companies were on the grounds of the rally site, and estimates and repair orders were flying all over the place. A simple phone call was all it took for me to get my claim number for my trailer and my car, with a verbal commitment to proceed with the repairs that were needed before my Alaskan trip. The actual repair to the trailer is going to have to wait until September or later when I arrive back in New Jersey. The experience with the insurance company went smoothly and without the slightest bit of hassle, perhaps because the day after the storm, the Insurance

Commissioner for the State of North Dakota issued all of us a personalized letter stating the facts of the event, and indicating that "...if any insurance company needed further details, or an explanation, to call his office directly for the answers and/or the assurances of the event.

The rally is now history, and one of the worst experiences I've ever had with storms, the incessant wind of the prairie, the almost constant rain and the biting chill of the North Dakota plains.

Next year the 37th International Rally is in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada—north of the North Dakota site.

However, all is not lost, we heard rumors that the 1995 rally is in Amherst, Massachusetts.

The Trip to Dawson Creek, British Columbia started July 5, 1993

Headed out of Bismarck on route 83 North toward Canada, and, after an uneventful trip, arrived at the Border town of Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada, and was the victim of a search no less. When we arrived at the gates a young lady came out of the office, greeted us and after a few questions as to guns, where we were born and where we lived, we were asked to pull off to the side parking area and await an officer. A few moments later, an officer of the Canadian border guard came out and went through the Suburban, and the trailer. He indicated that they did not do this to all people coming in, but this day happened to be a day in which they found a lot of hand guns which are forbidden to enter Canada. He searched my refrigerator, the sink cabinets, the bathroom

cabinets, and the storage areas wherever he could reach. He graciously told us to proceed and have a nice trip. Somehow, I didn't believe him.

Our next stop was Wayburn, Saskatchewan, a little village where gasoline cost 55.9 ¢ per litre, and because you get 3.8 litres per gallon, you can see I paid \$2.12 per gallon. It is true that some additional savings comes from using credit cards for gas purchases, because the conversion rate between Canadian currency and United States currency is in our favor, and since the credit card companies do it as a matter of course, we pay about \$1.80 per gallon. We have a lot to be thankful for at home.

By the way the camp ground we stayed at in Wayburn was right in the middle of the little town, and was very well kept, beautifully manicured, provided us with electricity, water, and a dump station on the way out. All for \$10 per night.

We left at about 7 a.m. the following day, and proceeded to Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, right on the border with Alberta, and on the edge of yet another time change. The greatest difficulty we find, while traveling in Canada, is finding appropriate rest stops for trailers—there just aren't any. The sides of the road ways are also very narrow, and safe stopping is very hard to find. The Canadians also have another money saving feature about their road system: All side road to service facilities are dirt roads with paving only at the service itself. Once you leave the service area the pot holes and gullies you hit could take out an axle. I also find that I need a better mud guard, or at least a longer one closer to the ground, so that mud and small stones thrown up from these areas don't end up on my trailer.

final were replaced with a pair of new Isolantite-based Hytron 6L6GX tubes. Power input to the final remained at 60 watts.

Metering was accomplished by means of Readrite panel meters purchased at Allied Radio for 73 cents each!

The high-voltage plate transformer was a Thordarson "Ham Special" which was rated at 600 volts each side of center-tap at 200 milliamperes and sold for \$4.95 at Allied Radio in Chicago.

The modulator tube line-up consisted of a type 75 speech amplifier, a type 76 amplifier, a type 42 triode-connected driver stage, and two type 46s as Class B modulators.

Mercury-vapor rectifiers were used in the power supplies, and as all hams were wont to do, were physically placed behind a rectangular opening at the bottom of the rack in the power supply section. The blue glow from the mercury-vapor rectifiers, when conducting, made a pretty sight and always impressed visitors to the shack.

The crystal microphone was constructed from a high-impedance Brush crystal earphone unit, and was mounted in an automotive cowl lamp removed from a 1927 sedan found in the local auto junk yard. Milk-strainer, fine-mesh screening, in place of the lamp glass lens, completely shielded the crystal element.


The antenna tuner on top of the rig was a then-new circuit called a Collins Pi-network. Antenna switching between transmitter and receiver was manually accomplished by a large porcelain-based open-knife switch.

On December 5th 1941, the exciter chassis with the 47 oscillator and 46 buffer was removed for modification and updating. The new exciter consisted of a type 6F6G oscilla-

tor and a type 6L6G buffer. December 6th saw the completion of the new exciter ready to install in the rack.

I was at work at the studio-transmitter of station WMRN on Sunday, December 7th when the news of Pearl Harbor broke from the news room. Later in the evening, before station sign-off, I warmed-up the station's AR-77 communications receiver to listen across the ham bands. In accordance with the FCC order issued that day, all amateur operations were to cease at midnight local time. One-by-one stations signed off the air and by midnight (EST) all was quiet with only a few Midwest (CST) stations remaining.

In 1946, W8VVS operated briefly with the "new" exciter. In the meantime, the 6L6GX finals were changed to a Taylor carbon-anode type T-55; the receiver was updated to a Hallicrafter S-20 Sky Champion. The original 1935 vintage All-Star Senior receiver has since been restored and is on display in my small museum.

Ah, those were the days! 

CLASSES FORMING

Warminster ARC	672-5487
RF Hill ARC	368-0400x205
Penn Wireless Ass'n	752-1202

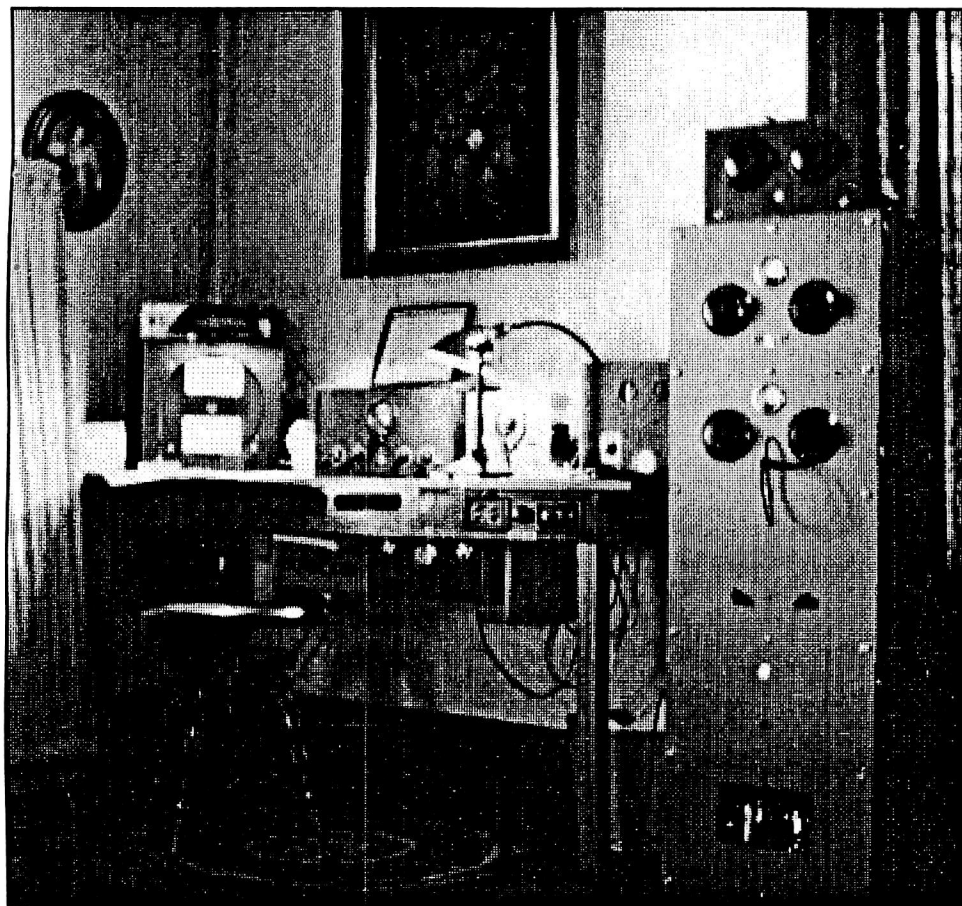
THE YEAR IS 1941

Paul Bohlander, W3VVS

W8VVS first went on the air April 26, 1941, at 7:15 P.M. EST. The ham station shown in the picture was typical for the times.

The station receiver was an All-Star Senior 7-tube superheterodyne built from a kit, and used with a home-brew 2-tube pre-selector. Both equipments used plug-in coils to change bands.

The transmitter, or so-called "Big Rig," was housed in a wooden rack with plywood sides and a Masonite front panel. Originally the RF exciter portion consisted of a crystal-controlled type 47 oscillator, a type 46 buffer, and a pair of type 46s in the final. Hams were always changing things to update and improve their rig and, soon, the 46s in the



W8VVS - November 1941

HOORAY FOR THE FCC!

Bob Wilcox, KE3CZ


Recently there has been a crack down by the FCC with regards to illegally operated, and/or unlicensed stations, along with those who use indecent language. I applaud the FCC for taking such actions, and hope that it continues. The penalties for such offenses have been somewhat stiff, as they should be.

There are some problems stemming from the issue as far as I can tell from what is printed about it. It seems that many of the folks caught using obscene and indecent language are crying out for their rights. They feel they have been "violated"! I think they should understand one thing...

AMATEUR RADIO IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT!

When anyone takes his/her examinations to become a licensed operator, they must study the same question pools as the other candidates. These question pools are filled with proper procedures as well as many electronic theory questions. Before even receiving the first ticket of your Ham career, it is made well known that this type of language, as well as operating outside of your license class limitations, will be regarded as a violation. It's right there in the questions.

What I do find even more upsetting is that many of these Hams that have been cited hold Extra Class tickets. Not that they are any better than the rest of the Licensees, but with that much experience and testing, there is absolutely no excuse.


I hope that the future of Amateur Radio is a long, bright one. Between the Amateur Auxiliary, the OO Program and the FCC, the airwaves will be kept clean. Amateur Radio, a privilege for the entire family! 

We left Lloydminster knowing that we had only another 249 kilometers to travel. We found an easy way to convert kilometers to miles; simply round the metric number to the nearest tenth, [round-off the units position-Ed] drop the zero, and multiply by 6 and you'll be real close. So the 249 kilometers translates to 150 miles.

By the way, each morning, I do check into the RV Net on 7.23333 MHz, and, so far since leaving Bismarck, have not run into anyone from the club. I also check in again, to the same net, at 12 noon Eastern on 14.3075 MHz, and again at 5 p.m. on 14.308 MHz. So if any of you are reading this, take time one day and get a contact from Alaska pretty soon.

Tomorrow, July 9, we will take a side trip, and go to the largest shopping mall in the world in Edmonton, for you see, that's where I'm writing this at the moment. Still cold about 18C with a damn wind chill factor that makes it feel ten degrees colder, however, our spirits are high.

We are presently parked at a place known as Allen Beach Resorts, a small lake resort 19 miles west of Edmonton. The name of this resort is misleading. Frankly, I'll be glad to move on to our next stop and our rendezvous point with the rest of our gang from Airstream, at Dawson Creek, British Columbia. I will then be able to give you a first hand report on what Chris Brady, N3IEI, says about Dawson Creek. Stay tuned.

de Ak2i-On the Road again (averaging 9.0 miles per gallon). 

Editor's note: The word-processing file containing both articles was date-stamped July 8, postmarked July 15 at Fort Nelson, BC, and delivered July 22, past the deadline for the August Blurb.

1993

SEPTEMBER

1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		31-August  "Blue Moon" <i>(2nd full moon in month)</i>	1 GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 PM Meeting starts after 7:30	2 LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 PM <i>sharp!</i>		
5 2M NCS W3GQD 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3PWG	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7	8 DIRECTORS' MEETING	9	10	11 <i>Cherryville Hamfest</i>
12 2M NCS K3JJO 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS AA3CH <i>Gaithersburg Hamfest</i> <i>Grandparent's Day</i>	13	14 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	15	16 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	17	18 <i>MS150 Bike Tour day 1</i>
19 2M NCS NS3Y 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS AA2FU <i>South Jersey Hamfest</i> <i>MS150 Bike Tour day 2</i>	20	21 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3ALW	22 <i>Autumnal Equinox</i>	23	24	25 <i>Yom Kippur</i> <i>York Hamfest day 1</i>
26 2M NCS N3KGG 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS AK2I <i>York Hamfest day 2</i>	27	28 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3STW	28  OPERATORS' NET at 8 PM	30	<i>If you consistently do your best, the worst can't happen.</i>	